



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: August 14, 2011**

**Number: 23**

**Released: August 15, 2011**

## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 14, 2011

Timely rains and cooler temperatures graced Virginia as crops responded well to the much needed moisture. Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.0. Cotton and soybeans continue to look good. Soybeans benefited from the recent rains. Growers continue to apply fungicides to peanuts for leaf spots and spray soybeans for worms. Corn has matured and grain harvest is expected to begin soon. Growers are preparing for corn harvest by getting combines, bins, and trucks ready. Vegetable growers continue to harvest tomatoes, cantaloupes, and various other summer vegetables.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 17, 2011	9	31	59	1
July 24, 2011	10	43	45	2
July 31, 2011	18	36	43	3
August 7, 2011	20	38	41	1
August 14, 2011	18	35	45	2

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
July 17, 2011	8	34	57	1
July 24, 2011	11	38	50	1
July 31, 2011	14	39	46	1
August 7, 2011	16	43	40	1
August 14, 2011	18	42	40	0

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension Service**

**Virginia Cooperative Extension**  
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

**Virginia Tech**



**Virginia State University**



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	10	24	34	30	2
Livestock	1	3	28	59	9
Hay, Other	11	16	37	34	2
Hay, Alfalfa	5	10	35	46	4
Corn	2	9	27	46	16
Soybeans	0	4	30	52	14
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	1	48	28	23
Tobacco, Burley	0	7	40	51	2
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	2	72	26	0
Peanuts	0	0	15	57	28
Cotton	0	0	1	59	40
Apples, All	0	0	71	23	6
Peaches	0	7	29	56	8
Grapes	0	0	25	73	2

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	80	63	84	78
Corn Dent	55	40	61	51
Corn Mature	17	6	28	15
Corn Silage Harvested	27	17	45	24
Soybeans Blooming	70	65	79	79
Soybeans Setting Pods	43	39	32	47
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	20	15	21	23
Burley Tobacco Harvested	10	4	9	4
Dark fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	30	25	9	9
Peanuts Pegged	85	80	71	90
Cotton Squaring	100	100	97	99
Cotton Setting Bolls	75	70	73	90
Cotton Bolls Opening	2	1	1	9
Summer Potatoes Harvested	100	92	100	95
Summer Apples Harvested	55	51	59	63
Peaches Harvested	68	57	65	73

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 14, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Aug. 13	Mar. 1 to Aug. 13 normal	Last Week	Since Jun. 1	Jun. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	90	66	96	61	78	3	2855	2573	0.06	6.89	-2.81	21.68	-6.11
Norfolk	91	75	95	72	83	5	3324	2828	2.06	17.68	6.63	29.68	0.00
Richmond	94	71	99	66	82	5	3203	2794	0.34	7.20	-2.94	23.02	-4.71
Roanoke	90	70	96	65	80	4	2995	NA	0.02	7.81	-1.37	24.18	-2.98
Wash/Dulles	90	68	93	62	79	4	2866	NA	0.37	5.07	-3.98	22.71	-3.09

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

#### NORTHERN

##### **FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)**

Frederick is still in a D1 drought. We received a few showers over the weekend but not enough to change dry conditions. Producers are starting to feed.

#### WESTERN

##### **ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)**

Moderate temperatures and thunderstorm activities improved over all field conditions. Corn has advanced rapidly toward maturity with corn silage harvest a full 10 days earlier than usual. This is apparently the result of the exceptional heat of July and early August.

#### CENTRAL

##### **AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

Scattered showers on Sunday night were hit and miss, anywhere from .2 to .8 tenths of rain. Monday and Tuesday's temperatures were hot, then the rest of the week in the upper 80's. The corn that has been harvested was all harvested for silage.

##### **CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Good widespread rains over the weekend have done wonders for pasture, hay fields and soybeans. The field corn crop is pretty much made and looks very good. Vegetable farmers are harvesting melons, tomatoes and other summer crops. Sweet corn was in short supply this past week due to excessive temperatures a couple of weeks ago that caused poor kernel formation. Successive crops look good and there should be plenty of sweet corn for market this week.

##### **CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

Scattered showers on Sunday August 7 and August 14. Monday and Tuesday were the continued hot days, with a cold front that came through Tuesday night. The rest of the week was normal temperatures, highs in the upper 80's. What a relief!

#### CENTRAL (continued)

##### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

Temperatures were a bit milder this past week. The weekend gave us numerous scattered storms with isolated heavy downpours. Silage chopping has begun at most dairies with a few nearly finished. Soybeans and grass are the biggest beneficiaries of the recent weather. Even late beans are showing good growth with early beans being well over waist high and looking luxurious. I have heard no reports of rust yet.

#### EASTERN

##### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Rainfall over the weekend was quite scattered with some reports of over 4 inches and other areas reporting almost nothing. Farmers spent the week scouting soybeans for corn earworms, applying fungicides to soybeans, and getting ready for corn harvest. A few soybean fields reached threshold levels for worms, but to date, pressure has been pretty low. Farmers also placed orders for seed wheat. Vegetable farmers continued to harvest tomatoes, cantaloupes, and other summer vegetables.

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## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### **SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)**

Rains have been just timely most all this summer and again the past week. All crops were looking good. Peanuts are pegging, cotton is setting bolls and beans look good. Corn is drying down and harvest should be ahead of normal. Pastures are looking better with the rains.

#### **SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Scattered light showers fall over some areas this week. Crops are looking good at this time as growers scout cotton and soybean for insects and pests. Growers are applying fungicides to peanut for leaf spots and looking out for blight as well. Others are getting ready for corn harvest by getting combines, bins and trucks ready for a few weeks.

#### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

About 4,000 acres continues to burn in the Great Dismal Swamp from a forest fire caused by lightening. Smoke was major problem in southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina this week. Corn harvest began this week. Corn will yield higher than expected in some areas of Chesapeake with high organic matter soils. Sandy natured soils will yield very low. Worm spraying began this week in soybeans with light infestations. We continue to need rain.



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